

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8824

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: DIZDAREVIC ON DISPUTE WITH ITALIANS OVER ZONE "B"

REF: BELGRADE 1359 (NOTAL)

1. IN MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MARCH 22 ON BILATERAL RELATIONS (REFTEL) RAIF DIZDAREVIC (THEN ACTING FONSEC) SPENT HALF-HOUR DISCUSSING TRIESTE-ZONE "B" QUESTION (SEE BELGRADE 1302 AND PREVIOUS). SEVERAL TIMES HE EXPRESSED HIS GENUINE PUZZLEMENT AS WELL AS DISMAY OVER GOI'S CREATING MAJOR PROBLEM OVER ZONE "B". DIZDAREVIC SAID IRREDENTIST POSITION HAD IN PAST BEEN EXPRESSED BY RIGHTIST EXTREMISTS IN ITALY BUT NOW GOI WAS ITSELF TAKING SUCH POSITION.

2. DIZDAREVIC FELT GOY WOULD NOW BE FORCED TO TAKE TWO STEPS: (A) REASSERT ITS RIGHTS IN ZONE "A", SINCE ITALIANS HAD REASSERTED THEIR RIGHTS IN ZONE "B", AND (B) MAKE PUBLIC ALL PRIVATE DISCUSSION SHELD BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO GOVERNMENTS OVER PAST TWO YEARS ON SETTLING TRIESTE ISSUE -- "IN WHICH WE HAVE MADE MANY GENEROUS PROPOSALS".

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3. TIMING OF DEMARCHES GIVEN BY DIZDAREVIC FEBRUARY 22 --

ITALIANS PRESENTED AND WITHDREW AT GOY REQUEST NOTE WITH UNACCEPTABLE LANGUAGE RE ZONE "B".
MARCH 11 -- ITALIANS HANDED OVER NOTE WITH SAME "OFFENSIVE" LANGUAGE AND WOULD NOT WITHDRAW IT.
MARCH 15 -- YUGOSLAV NOTE IN REPLY.
MARCH 19 -- SECOND ITALIAN NOTE, "WHICH WAS WORSE".
MARCH 21 -- RUMOR'S REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT ON TRIESTE DISPUTE MAKING "MATTERS STILL WORSE".

4. WHEN DIZDAREVIC ASKED HIM WHAT COULD BE DONE TO SOLVE PROBLEM, AMBASSADOR SIMPLY NOTED THAT HEAVY-HANDED MEDIA TREATMENT BEING GIVEN DISPUTE HERE SIMPLY HEATED-UP SITUATION AND COULD NOT HELP TO ACHIEVE RESOLUTION OF THIS SERIOUS PROBLEM.

5. MEANWHILE, MEDIA TREATMENT OVER WEEKEND HAS CONTINUED HOT AND HEAVY, WITH BANNER HEADLINES, PROMINENT TV COVERAGE OF WORKERS AND OTHER SOCIAL GROUP PROTEST OVER ITALIAN "AGGRESSIVE ACTS". CROATIAN PARTY SECRETARY JOSIP VRHOVEC, QUOTED IN TANJUG MARCH 23, INDIRECTLY CONFIRMED ACCOUNT ON TIMING AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF ITALIAN NOTES AS TOLD BY ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICER HERE, SAYING A "QUEER NOTE" WAS RECEIVED A MONTH OR SO BEFORE, LATER SOFTENED ORALLY BUT THEN FOLLOWED UP BY THE OFFENSIVE MARCH 11 NOTE. VRHOVEC AND OTHER YUGOSLAV COMMENTARY PUSHING POINT THAT THE TRIESTE ISSUE IS NOT DIPLOMATIC BUT POLITICAL AND AFFECTS VITAL COMPONENTS OF SYSTEM OF EUROPEAN SECURITY. (YUGOSLAV REPRESENTATIVE HAS ALREADY RAISED ISSUE AT CSCE TALKS IN GENEVA.)
TOON

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